

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB/PINS/PINT/AR

SUBJECT: ASSASINATION OF CGT SECRETARY GENERAL RUCCI

SUMMARY. CGT IS WRESTLING WITH QUESTION OF SUCCESSOR TO RUCCI, WHICH MAY BE RESOLVED BY COMPLETE RESTRUCTURE OF CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THERE HAS BEEN NO VISIBLE SUCCESS IN POLICE EFFORTS TO TRACK DOWN RUCCI'S MURDERERS. POLICE CONFISCATED NEWSPAPER EDITION AND CLOSE TV STATION FOR PUBLISHING ERP COMMUNIQUES DISCLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS MEETING SEPT 28 IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE CGT LEADERSHIP QUESTION FOLLOWING MURDER OF SECGEN RUCCI. TEXTILE WORKERS (AOT) SECGEN ADELINO ROMERO, WHO IS ALSO CGT SUBSECCGEN, IS ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL; HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT WANT THE JOB, THEREFORE THE CGT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO NAME AN INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL, RELY ON COLLECTIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP, OR COMPLETELY RESTURCTURE CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION HOW IT WILL DECIDE, COMPLETE RESTRUCTURE THROUGH CALLING OF NEW CONGRESS APPEARS PROBABLE AS NEXT ORDINARY CONGRESS IS NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL JULY 1974.

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2. EFFORTS TO LOCATE RUCCI'S MURDERERS HAVE PROVED FRUITLESS DESPITE EXTENSIVE EFFORTS BY THOUSANDS OF POLICE WHO ARE QUESTIONING EYE-WITNESSES, EXAMINING CARS AND SEARCHING BUILDINGS IN GREATER BUENOS AIRES AREA. IDENTITY OF ASSAILANT ORGANIZATION IS ALSO UNCLEAR AS THE ERP HAS APPARENTLY DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACT. FEDERAL POLICE CONFISCATED THE SEPT 27 EDITION OF EL MUNDO, A LEFTIST DAILY NEWSPAPER, WHEN IT PUBLISHED ERP AND ERP/AUGUST 22 COMMUNIQUES IN WHICH THEY DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDER. NEWSPAPER CLARIN ALSO RECEIVED COMMUNIQUES BUT DID NOT PUBLISH THEM. GOA IS CONSIDERING ACTION AGAINST EL MUNDO, AND HAS CLOSED DOWN FOR 24 HOURS TV CHANNEL 9, WHICH BROADCAST THE ERP COMMUNIQUES. SEIZURE AND CLOSURE WERE MADE ON GROUNDS PUBLICATION OF COMMUNIQUES VIOLATED A RECENT GOA DECREE MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO PUBLISH ANY PROPAGANDA OR OTHER STATEMENTS BY ERP (BA-7046).

COMMENT. THE ERP COMMUNIQUES DENYING RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUCCI'S MURDER, FOLLOWING AN EARLIER TELEPHONE CALL TO THE POLICE CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY, INTRODUCES A NEW DIMENSION TO THE INCIDENT. IF THE ERP DENIALS ARE ACCEPTED, AND THEY WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY AS TRADITIONALLY THE ERP DOES NOT DISCLAIM CREDIT WHEN IT IS IN FACT RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, LEFTIST PERONIST ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS FAR, FAP, AND MONTONEROS, MUST BE SUSPECTED. THE MERE SUSPICION THAT A PERONIST SECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE COULD HAVE IMPORTANT REPERCUSSIONS WITHIN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT, WHICH JUST NOW APPEARS TO BE SETTING ASIDE PAST ANTAGONISMS AND ANSWERING PERON'S CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

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